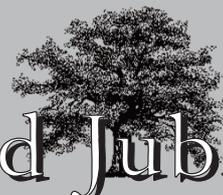


STOP PRESS! Parish Assembly!!

See inside: p4

The Oaks



STOP PRESS! Diamond Jubilee!!

See inside: p6-7

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Parish Council Chairman
Wynne Frankum

Parish Council Clerk
Helen Pratt

The Oaks Editorial Team
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Bucklebury Parish Chairman's Letter

Following the sad death of the long standing parish councillor, Harry Hind, we were delighted to welcome Alan Dunkerton as the new parish councillor. Alan has a great deal of experience with the police and with the traffic police and has been a great help to BPC in the past. He has agreed to join John Brims as a BPC representative on the Memorial Hall Committee.

We are aware that the Parish Council web site needs updating and this is in hand.

You will no doubt recall that the three hay meadows behind the Cottage Inn pub were given in perpetuity to the parish as part of the planning agreement for the houses that are now called Morton's Lane. Andrew Waters' family have farmed this land for very many years and he continues to do so. The meadows will be transferred to BPC this year and we are currently making sure the legal documents are in order. The copse between Byles Green and Morton's Lane will be transferred at a later date.

There have been concerns about the increase in volume and the speed of traffic through Bucklebury past St. Mary's church. A traffic survey will be carried out so we have some facts to work from. We will then approach WBC to discuss what may be done.

There has recently been an increase in crime in the parish and we are working closely with the police. One person has been apprehended. If you see anything untoward occurring, please contact the police immediately. Karen Taylor has recently become the PCSO to contact for rural crime. Ring 101 to reach her or to report a crime. PCSO Caroline Harrison replaces her on the neighbourhood team.

Work by the newly regrouped Pang Valley Conservation volunteers now known as West Berkshire Countryside Society have

continued to work on the hedges round the Hockett field. There has been an impressive amount achieved. 100 slips planted in extremely stony soil was a challenge and lots of brambles cleared so previously planted slips will be able to flourish. The group has nearly completed the hedge to the north and the field looks very much better. We are indebted to the volunteers who give so freely of their time and expertise.

We hope many of you will have risen to the "Greening Bucklebury" challenge to cut both your household bills and save finite resources. The Green Team will be going round the parish to check who has put the cards in their windows to show they are taking part. The results will appear in the next issue of *The Oaks*.

The preparations for the Bucklebury Diamond Jubilee celebrations organised by the Bucklebury Events Committee are well under way. Join in the fun on 3rd June at Bucklebury Farm Park. I'm sure it will be as memorable as the Royal Wedding celebration. See further details in this copy of the Oaks.

The Bucklebury Emergency plan is being completed. Lindy Clarke is masterminding it, so that if an emergency should occur in the parish there will be procedures and contacts in place. We will, of course, be relying on a great deal of local help and expertise.

Barry Dickens is keeping BPC abreast of the Localism agenda currently under discussion.

So you see the parish council continue to work hard on your behalf and as always we are indebted to our very hard working clerk, Helen Pratt.

Wynne Frankum Chairman BPC

Parish Council Planning

Planning, which is the regulation of the use of land or buildings in the public interest, was first enshrined in an Act of Parliament in 1947. Since then there have been several further Acts the latest of which will see National Planning Policy become part of the new Localism Act in force from April 2012. At the time of writing the new National Planning Policy Framework is likely to see a presumption in favour of sustainable development. There will be a new designation of a Local Green Space (LGS) which will be part of Designated Land in the Local Plan. Bucklebury Meadows, which will soon transfer to the Parish Council, could become a LGS thereby enjoying protection of its status within the Local Plan. Village Design Statements, such as Bucklebury Vision, will continue to be Supplementary Planning Documents. We will have the opportunity to produce a plan under the new designation 'Neighbourhood Plan'. This plan will give us more say in influencing the type, design and mix of any new development. Bucklebury will be producing a Neighbourhood Plan using Bucklebury Vision as a starting point. When derived, submitted to WBC and approved by an Inspector, adoption of the Plan will be subject to a referendum of Parishioners. Should anyone wish to volunteer to work with the Parish Council on developing our Neighbourhood Plan, please let me know.

Barry Dickens Chair BPC Planning Committee

Parish Council Matters Arising

Bucklebury Cemetery



the east end.

The bench in memory of Olive Edwards is situated behind the chapel; we hope it will be a pleasant place to sit. The big entrance gates are in need of TLC and so the Burial Board

C.R. Landscapes, who have served the cemetery so well in the past, have again been awarded a three year contract for the maintenance.

The part of the cemetery which was opened in the 1970's is now full and the lawn cemetery has come into use. At the request of the Kent family we have begun at

has decided to use some of Olive Edward's bequest to have them refurbished and painted in the original colour green.

Andy Stott has joined John Brims, Barry Dickens and me on the Burial Board.

The cemetery is a haven for wildlife and delightful in early summer when the wild flowers are in flower. Each year they are allowed to seed in the hope they may spread. It's a pleasant place for a gentle stroll!

Received 13th March.12 From a regular visitor, Patricia Stoughton. "The cemetery was looking very pretty yesterday. Please could I thank you again and the kind volunteers who watch over everything"

Wynne Frankum Chairman of the Burial Board, BPC

Bucklebury Common Update

As usual on behalf of the Parish Council I have been working with WBC, The Police and Bucklebury Estate on the problems of Fly-tipping and illegal 4x4 usage.

This has been a relatively quiet period in terms of actual reports/captures – although we have had the usual off-road and fly-tipping activities.

Talking about fly-tipping – did you know YOU could face penalties of up to £5,000 if you don't check that the company or person you give waste to:

- has a licence to carry waste
- is taking it to a licensed site

So beware – that man and van offering to dispose of your rubbish could cost YOU dearly if they tip it – a recent example was a washing machine where the non-metallic elements were dumped !

Just a reminder if vehicles don't have full insurance, tax and MOT it is illegal to drive on an unrestricted byway, and even with these they need to be considerate to others, not damage the service and observe road and bylaws. Driving anywhere off-road is illegal and needs to be reported and ideally photos taken.

Please continue to help report incidents immediately they happen to the Police on the non emergency number on 101 and don't forget vehicle registration numbers and photos !

Please also feel free to ring me.

Please report fly-tipping to streetcare@westberks.gov.uk they normally collect in 48 hours.

There have been some reports of "mud-plugging" 4*4's (churning up tracks) which have been passed onto to the Police and WBC – letters and warnings will be sent. The bylaws are on the BPC website and the information board at the crossroads (if they have not been vandalised again). WBC have developed a management plan for making bridleways inaccessible for motorised vehicles – more on this



Bucklebury Celebrates!

Bucklebury Memories through the Decades

For the Diamond Jubilee celebrations at Bucklebury Farm Park we are planning a photo exhibition of Bucklebury celebrations from the 1950's to the present day.

Do you have photos of parties, christenings, the Silver Jubilee celebrations, the Coronation, WI or other groups? We'd like an interesting mix!

Please send your photos, with a self addressed envelope, to:
Wynne Frankum, 16, Berry's Road, Upper Bucklebury, Reading RG7 6QN.

Photos will be copied and the original returned to you.



and 25th March and the savings assessed. The savings will be announced at the annual Parish Assembly in May. The plan is then to move on to Phase 2 which will be about the community projects requested by parishioners in last year's Parish Plan community questionnaire. Phase 2 of the campaign will start later in the year and will focus on setting up and running these community projects.

For further information contact Peter Brook.

Peter Brook Acting Chair Greening Bucklebury

The Guides at the Greening Launch

Diamond Jubilee Tree Planting

Bucklebury Parish Council is considering planting a line of Oak Trees in the Meadows as part of the diamond Jubilee celebrations. Planting won't start until next Autumn/Winter. The trees will continue the line of 3 trees planted when the Oaks along the footpath were cut down. Oak trees can last 600 years and we feel this is a good project to mark this significant achievement in our history.

Bucklebury PC is looking for donations towards the cost of the trees – either in part or full. If you would like to donate a tree in memory of a loved one this would also be considered. We need to plant reasonably sized trees which have been well maintained to give them the best chance of survival – these cost on average £500 although we are investigating the options here.

BPC will provide fencing around the trees and we will be looking for volunteers nearer the time here also to help!

If you are interesting in donating a tree or helping in any other way please let John deLara or Steve Beeson know via the Clerk

Helen Pratt on (clerk)

Communications/signposting

PARISHIONERS EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

As *The Oaks* only comes out 3 times a year, the Parish Council felt there was a need for more immediate communications about the Parish, e.g. local weather warnings, neighbourhood watch matters, road closures. If you would like to sign up to this distribution list, please send your email address to Helen Pratt, the parish clerk.

BUCKLEBURY BUSINESS LIST

If you run a business in Bucklebury, please let Peter Weedon, peterweedon@btinternet.com have your contact details, as he is compiling a list which will be published on the Parish website, with hard copies available if requested.

BUCKLEBURY CLUBS/ORGANISATIONS

The clerk holds a list of these, which are always included in the welcome pack for newcomers, and will be published on the Parish website. If you would like a copy or would like to be included on the list, please contact the parish clerk as above.

WELCOME PACK

If you are a newcomer to the Parish, and you have not yet received our welcome pack, please contact Helen, the Clerk, for a copy.

PARISH WEBSITE

www.buckleburyparish.org

West Berks District Councillors

Bucklebury Ward contains the parishes of Bradfield, Bucklebury, Frilsham, Hermitage and Stanford Dingley. Our councillors are:

GRAHAM PASK

QUENTIN WEBB

Tel/Fax 01635-864023

Tel/Fax 01635-201435

Diamond Jubilee Celebration for Queen Elizabeth II



The Big Lunch



@

Bucklebury Farm Park

12 noon until 6pm

Sunday 3rd June 2012

A variety of entertainment:

Hog Roast	Under-12s '50s' fancy dress
Beer Tent	Jive-dancing competition
Vintage teas	Bucklebury celebration
Live Music	display 1952-2012

Village to Farm Tractor Rides!

Proms Finale!

Tickets £7.50 for adults from

Pat Barnard-Smith, 14 Berry's Road, Upper Bucklebury RG7 6QN
p.barnardsmith@btinternet.com Tel. 01635 864065

Jubilee 'Big Lunch' ticket application form:

Open to Bucklebury Parish residents and their guests. Children 18 years old and under go free – NO ENTRY WITHOUT TICKET!

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone Number:	
Number of tickets required @ £7.50 per ticket:	Total Cost:
Number of free tickets required (for 18 year olds and under):	
Cheques should be made payable to "Bucklebury Community Events" and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and your tickets will be posted to you.	

Souvenir Pencil Tin application form:

Free Diamond Jubilee souvenir pencil tin (one of only 750 printed exclusively for Bucklebury) **available to children 16 and under on 3rd June**. This unique gift will also be available to purchase before the Big Lunch at a number of locations around the village

Name:
Address:
Telephone Number:
Children's Name (s) and Ages:

Please post or email ticket/souvenir applications to:

Pat Barnard-Smith, 14 Berry's Road, Upper Bucklebury, RG7 6QN

Email: p.barnardsmith@btinternet.com Tel: 01635 864065

WBC Councillors' Report

It has been a fairly quiet start to 2012 as far as District Council business is concerned, all the hard work on this year's budget was effectively completed by Christmas and, as promised, has resulted in no increase in Council Tax levels this year. We have also been blessed with a very mild winter this year following two very harsh winters previously so our roads have suffered far less damage due to frost and ice. This is excellent news as we can now proceed with routine road maintenance without the need to repair lots of cold weather damage as has been the case over the past two years, so if you see any particular problems please tell Streetcare on 01635 519080 or inform us if you are unhappy with the response.

As always we are available to assist with any District issues if you need to contact us and thank everyone for their continued support.

Graham Pask & Quentin Webb

West Berks Community Information

Thatcham and Newbury libraries carry leaflets on most local organisations. For community-related information, contact Jim Sweeting (Arts & Leisure Information Officer) on 01635 519251 (jsweeting@westberks.gov.uk).

The main switchboard for West Berks Council (WBC) is 01635 42400.

For Transport enquiries (e.g. bus routes or timetable) ring 01635 503248.

For non-emergency calls, the Police can be contacted on 0845 8505505

Toddlers enjoying Punch & Judy

Family

Bucklebury Toddler Group

COME AND ENJOY A PUPPET SHOW

On April 27th Party Puppets are coming to Bucklebury to entertain us with a puppet show. We would like to invite anyone with a child five and under to come and enjoy the show whether they regularly attend or have never visited before. Party Puppets are excellent at entertaining the younger age range incorporating animals, colours and numbers and are always popular with the children. The price will be just the standard admission £1.50 for the first child and £1 for each subsequent child. Weather permitting we will finish off the morning with a treasure hunt.

Bucklebury Toddlers has been a real sanctuary over the cold January and February months. Giving the children the opportunity to have fun staying both active and warm and for carers to catch up with friends. Looking ahead we are looking forward to Easter and spring crafts and an Easter egg hunt.

We are a small and friendly group of parents, grandparents and childminders who welcome all newcomers. If you have young children and are looking for something to do on Friday morning from 10-12 please drop into Upper Bucklebury Memorial hall for tea, chat and play. For more information contact Cara.

Cara Shearn

Bucklebury Pre-School

Our theme since Christmas has been Disney which easily captured the children's imagination and has provided the opportunity to explore a wealth of different stories and characters from Ratatouille to Snow White and the Seven Dwarves and from Winnie the Pooh to Aladdin. We also celebrated the Chinese new year making red lanterns, taking part in a dragon dance and cooking stir fry. During this activity a number of children ventured to eat vegetables they hadn't tried before and liked them! This term we have been particularly busy in the kitchen as we also baked bread and the Little Acorns made honey biscuits and delicious apple puffs.

We are looking forward to our Easter Hat Parade. The



Punch

children will be modelling their homemade Easter headwear and be singing a selection of Easter and Spring themed songs on the stage. Cake, Easter biscuits and hot cross buns will then be on sale to finish off the occasion. A really lovely way to celebrate the coming of spring!

We have now started collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids and the Tesco's Schools and Clubs vouchers. As well as this we collect: used stamps, the green lids from milk cartons and Nestle Box Top tokens. If you have any of these we would be really grateful if you could collect them for us and bring them into the Memorial Hall. In the past we have been

Preschoolers enjoying Chinese Dragon Dancing

able to select exciting new equipment that has been really beneficial to the children as a result of your donations.

Bucklebury Preschool is open Monday to Thursday from 9:15 to 3:30. We cater for children aged 2.5 to 5 and are located at The Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury. If you would like to find out more about us or arrange a visit please contact our Administration and Registration Secretary, Penny Monksfield or visit our website www.buckleburypreschool.co.uk

Cara Shearn Bucklebury Preschool committee

1st Bucklebury Guides



For the first half of this term we were thinking about our environment. The girls came up with displays for the Bucklebury Greening

launch which included a child-size light switch and shower to try, to ask people to turn off the lights when leaving a room, and to cut down on shower times to reduce water wastage. As well as the static displays, the girls also wrote their own songs and did a rap on water and energy wastage, which they performed on the day of the launch.

Thinking Day this year was held at Hermitage and this too had an environmental message. We had fun using various junk materials to create new items. These included the use of plastic bags for necklaces and old magazines and plastic bottles for storage jars / pencil pots. We also had a clothes and book swap shop where girls brought in the items they no longer wanted and swapped them for something else.

At half term we went on our usual trip to Basingstoke Leisure Park where we all went to see the Muppets film, had lunch, went bowling and then swimming. A lot of fun was had by all and 3 of our newest members took their promises at various places on our outing.

During the rest of this term we have been doing our Science badge. With a few of the leaders coming from a science or engineering background, we decided to make up our own clauses and make it even more fun. We had an evening of psychology and finding out that sometimes things are different to what our eyes tell us and an engineering night where the girls had to design catapults and armour to either throw or defend from foil ball ammunition. The realms of micro-organisms were investigated by making cuddly bacteria and viruses in a craft session. We then discussed which were harmful or helpful, and how we could stop ourselves from getting food poisoning. To end the badge, we had a science experiment night to investigate; how to calculate the speed of light using a microwave and a chocolate bar, how to tell a raw egg from a boiled one without cracking it, how to make a soda pop explosion, work out why bubbles are round, how to measure a nerve impulse and many more things besides.

Within this term the Guides have also been designing their own challenge badge that we are hopefully going to get made and sell to raise money for our current charity, Macmillan Support. This has been based around a Sherlock Homes theme and has involved coming up with, and trying out, clauses to cover some craft, games, cooking and science experiments.

The girls currently doing their BP award have also been very busy. We now have 3 more girls that are close to finishing completely and the 2 Guides who have already finished their BP have now formed a new post-BP group, which allows them to self manage more in readiness for life as a Senior Section member.

You may be stunned to know, but nationally over 2011, Girl Guiding UK grew by an amazing 8,247 new members. This works out at roughly 1 new member per hour! Once again Guide spaces in this area are now becoming very tight. Currently with our district waiting list alone, we could open a new unit, and completely fill it, but we lack the adult help. No previous training is required, and believe me it is just as rewarding and fun for us oldies too!. Whether you have a daughter interested in joining Guides in the next couple of years, or you yourself could spare 1 night a week during term time to help run a unit, please do get in touch.

Claire Powers (Unit Leader of 1st Bucklebury Guides)



Holly Unnuk

WBBS dancers at KATS panto

West Berks Ballet School



The Spring term started with the arrival of the long-awaited results of the ballet exams which 15 students had taken in early December. An amazing 50% had achieved Distinction (marks of over 80%). Four students had taken a major exam intended for those wishing to pursue dance as a career. So you can imagine we were very pleased and proud of our pupils.

At the end of January we had been invited to participate in a fashion show organised by a new and exciting dancewear company, Ruby Slippers, who have recently opened a lovely boutique in Greenacres Leisure Centre. We reprised the Waltz of the Flowers from our last production of The Nutcracker and justly received a wonderful ovation. Our students do like performing which is what all this hard training and practice is all about so.....

In the February half-term we were once again invited by Kats to dance in one of their famous pantomimes at Kennet School. Claire waved her trusty magic wand and produced some great numbers for the girls. They looked so professional and confident on stage and it was lovely to see

that so many of their friends from WBBS who came to support them during the performance week.

Claire can be seen, and her wonderful singing can be heard, at the Corn Exchange in Newbury Operatic Society's production of 'Anything Goes' from 11th-14th April. A definite date for our diary.

The modern and tap students are now busy rehearsing for their own show on 7th & 8th July at the Memorial Hall. Tickets will be available next term – all details on our website.

We have been delighted to welcome back an ex-pupil, Holly Unnuk, who has joined the teaching team. Holly left WBBS to take up a scholarship at Legat School of ballet and then obtained a degree in dance from Laban, so we were thrilled when she told us that she would love to return to WBBS to teach. We shall all be able to see Holly on television in July when, joined by another ex-pupil Samuel Butler, she will be dancing in the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games!!

Spring is just round the corner with more dancing adventures to come!

Jane Scholl, Claire Bowden & Holly Unnuk
www.wbbs.org

In the Area

Chapel Row Fayre

August Bank Holiday Saturday 25th August

Free admission and Parking

Held on the green, Chapel Row by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Hartley Russell

We are always looking for volunteers to help either on the day or with help setting up and taking down. Please contact caroline if you can help or make a donation of any kind. The Fayre supports causes that help local people and local charities so please contact us if you would like us to consider your charity for the next Fayre. Many Thanks.

Caroline Lafferty

Panto Girls

inside things are changing and the group of Trustees that look after it for the community wish it to be used and are keen to promote the wonderful old building. Eventually of course it is hoped that it will be possible to return it to its former glory but while the money is being raised let us enjoy it!

From March to May 13th on Sunday afternoons at 4pm you can meet and listen to professional musicians performing whilst you relax and drink tea with a slice of cake! Each concert will be distinctive and original and will cost just £10 per adult, £5 for school age children. You will receive a very warm welcome into this lovely room from the past.

For a brochure or more information please contact Sandra Nicholls or buy tickets at the Family Bookshop in Thatcham

Sandra Nicholls

Chapel Row Surgery Patient Participation Group

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR SURGERY?

By April 2013 the Primary Care trust will no longer be with us – A Clinical Commissioning Group will be in place with our GPs responsible – they need you THE PATIENTS. Your input is vital in their future success; please let us know if you are interested in joining the patient participation group. Next meeting March 15th 7 30pm at the surgery.

The patient participation group has just completed a small survey and the results show patients would like a dedicated time to ring the surgery for test results; this will be 12 noon to 1pm Monday to Friday. Tel 01189713252

On-line appointments were also asked for and the practice will be looking at this in the near future.

The practice is taking part in a disease prevention

MARCH – MAY SUNDAY AFTERNOON 'TEA & CAKES' CONCERT SERIES

A new venture for the Old Bluecoat School in Thatcham

You may have wondered what is happening to the Old Bluecoat School in Thatcham. Well, from the outside it does not look very different but

Music Hall
(or a little of what you fancy!)

Join us as we step back in time to the bygone age of the Music Hall with singing, dancing and comedy.

Bucklebury Memorial Hall
15 – 18 August 2012 - 7.30pm
Tickets £10.00 - Ploughman's supper included
 (Licenced bar available)

Tickets available from
 The Family Bookshop, Thatcham
 (01256 3443 105040)
 via the KATS website @ www.kats.org.uk

KENNET AMATEUR THEATRICAL SOCIETY
KATS
PERFECT ENTERTAINMENT

programme. Early detection and treatment of risk factors may reduce the incidence of heart disease and stroke. We welcome patients aged 40-74years old who do not attend regularly to come along for a free NHS health check.

Did you know? As well as normal surgery times there are a small number of appointments available in the early evening and on one Saturday morning a month. These appointments are to help those who find 9am to 6pm appointments difficult so please check on the availability of these appointments when you require a routine appointment with a GP or a practice nurse.

We will be writing a short bulletin like this every few months.

Contact the surgery on 0118 9713252.

Repeat prescriptions 0118 9712826

www.crsurgery.co.uk

Erica Tipton (Chair)
 Chapel Row Surgery Patient Participation Group

Organisations

Bucklebury Village Events Committee (BVEC)

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL SPARKLES

The parish got into festive mood in style with our first-ever Christmas Tree Festival held on 3rd December. Open to local groups and businesses, more than 20 beautifully decorated trees sparkled in the perfect setting of The Victory Room and during the day more than 200 people called in to enjoy the spectacle and sample delicious mulled wine and mince pies and vote on their favourite tree.

Bucklebury Primary School carried off the first prize of £50 for their imaginative tree adorned with laundry pegs contributed by each child. Bucklebury Pre-School were the runners up with other impressive trees entered by Bucklebury Wolves, Bradfield Young Farmers, Bucklebury Horticultural Society, the Bucklebury Walkers, the Brownies, Bucklebury Bookkeeping, Bladebone Butchers, Bucklebury Farm Park, the Girl Guides, the Scouts, Bucklebury History Group, Lesley Clay (solicitor), Macmillan Cancer Support, the Sewing Club, Toddlers and the newly formed Women's Group.

Organised by the Bucklebury Community Events Committee, special thanks go to the Bladebone pub and BBC Masterchef contestant Annie Assheton from Bradfield Southend for donating raffle prizes, to Wal Hempell from Hillfoot for adding a touch of Christmas sparkle, German style, with gorgeous spiced biscuits and stunning wreaths and to our visiting "man in red" who travelled in a special sleigh all the way from Lapland via Stanford Dingley!

LIGHTING UP BUCKLEBURY

Lanterns were lit outside homes across the parish on December 18th in aid of the charity Crisis at Christmas raising more than £200 for this good cause. The event was timed to coincide with the carol service in St Mary's Church and the sight of up to 100 lanterns twinkling in the churchyard was breathtaking.

As well as raising funds for charity, the aim was to link up the parish with pools of light – a gesture that also ensured that Santa and his reindeer had an accurate flight path to reach homes across Bucklebury.

Our thanks go to all those who helped to collect jam jars for the event as well as our lantern sellers, Anne Ryder, Wynne Frankum, Christie Morris, Oli Brooke, Adrian Bend, Elizabeth Peplow, Alastair McOran-Campbell, Julie Brims, Charlie Furse, the Bladebone Pub, the Cottage Inn and to Hash and Chan at Peaches stores for allowing us to sell the lanterns outside the shop and for their endless supply of tea and coffee on some cold mornings

Elizabeth Peplow
 Bucklebury Community Events Committee

Bucklebury & Marlston Horticultural Society

As we enjoy a dry spring on top of successive dry winters, the local Water Company is already introducing emergency measures and warning of difficult times to come during the summer. It may not be a good idea to plan any ambitious planting schemes or new lawns this year. It looks as if we shall be hard pressed to nurture our surviving plants which have struggled through the last two hard winters. Ornamental borders and vegetable plots will need special considerations to overcome the watering restrictions. The only certainty is that despite all the predictions, the weather is fickle and will do as it pleases. Remember that “BBQ summer”? No, nor do I.

Whatever happens, we are due a reliable, warm summer - it's ages since my default summer outfit was a T-shirt, shorts and sandals. Let's hope I can drag them from the back of the wardrobe for our July trip to the World famous RHS gardens at Wisley. Entry to the gardens is free when we go as an Affiliated Society Group. Our members can travel by coach or car on Saturday 7th July, leaving the Memorial Hall at 9.30am. Before that we have a May outing to see some rhododendrons and azaleas. It was planned to visit the Savill Gardens, on the edge of Windsor Great Park, but as last year the mid-May weekend coach dates are all booked. To ensure that we are not thwarted for a third year running, I have made a firm reservation for 2013! Instead we shall be heading west into Wiltshire, and visit the wonderful mansion and gardens at Bowood. The date is unchanged and is still Saturday 19th May, leaving at 9:30am, returning to Bucklebury at around 5pm. In addition to the “Capability Brown” parkland, spring borders, follies and lake, we shall visit the special rhododendron walks, on a separate part of the estate, which should be in peak condition at this time. Details are in the Schedule, contact me to book places.

After the two trips, we shall be holding our Summer and Autumn shows, both in the Memorial Hall, between two and four in the afternoon. Saturday 14th July and 8th September respectively. Details of all the classes, rules and regulations are in the schedule. If you are not a member, and would like a complimentary schedule, please contact John Wright.

Following last year's extremely successful social, another event is being organised this autumn. The Memorial Hall has been booked for Saturday 6th October. The KATS “Murder Mystery” was a sell-out, and they are planning something just as spectacular this year.

Happy gardening!

Derek Matthews

BVEC Christmas Tree Competition

Bucklebury Events Committee

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS FOR BUCKLEBURY CALENDAR 2013!

The Bucklebury Community Events team is planning to produce a limited edition village calendar for 2013 and is inviting entries from photographers throughout the parish. We are looking for images that capture scenes of the parish and village life throughout the seasons from landscapes to wildlife, to architectural landmarks, people, societies, social and sporting events. Perhaps you've taken a stunning picture of Bucklebury in the snow, have a great picture of the display at the horticultural show, your own garden for summer colour, or some sporting action from the football, tennis or cricket clubs? For the autumn, you might have a fun image from the Beerfest or an evocative scene of harvest time in your collection. There is also still time to take some new pictures over the next few months that might catch the judges' eyes – so get snapping!! Photos for the calendar will be selected from the entries submitted, and the photographer's name will be included on the calendar / for that month. The calendar will go on sale at the Bucklebury Beerfest in October.

The deadline for entries is 31st July 2012. Please send these as low resolution jpeg images (in the first instance) by email, complete with a suggested caption and your contact details to Elizabeth Peplow

Elizabeth Peplow

St Martins Club

Our winter meetings in the Memorial Hall have now come to an end and our coach trips commence on Tuesday 3rd April, with the usual mystery tour. The outings for the remainder of the year are as follows:-

3 rd April	Mystery Tour
1 st May	Stratford upon Avon
12 th June	American Museum in Britain at Bath
3 rd July	Hever Castle in Kent
7 th August	Weston Super Mare
4 th September	Carr-Taylor Vineyard in Sussex
2 nd October	Cardiff

St Martins Club is for Bucklebury residents only, but visitors may join us on our coach outings providing seats are available.

Enquiries to Ron Mather or Reg Allum

Ron Mather

Reg Allum

Bucklebury Friendship Circle

I cannot believe that a year has passed since I last wrote to tell our friends and supporters about our annual Coffee Morning. This year it will take place on Wednesday 2nd May 2012 at 10:00am at Briff Farm (off Briff lane), Upper Bucklebury and we will be holding it, as previously, in aid of the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance.

Last year, in spite of the gloomy economic climate, we still managed to raise over £1000! Our very gratifying total was £1,006.32. This could not have been achieved without all your generous support and enthusiasm.

We will, as usual, have an excellent cake / produce stall, a large well-run plant stall, as well as gifts/ bric-a-brac and books, and a Treasure Hunt with a bottle of whisky as the prize! We will, of course, have our ever-popular raffle.

We do hope that as many of you as possible will come and be able to enjoy the house and garden, at what has become a very enjoyable annual event, all in aid of a very worthy cause.

Judy Fleming

Tuesday Ladies Club



We started off the year with a very interesting talk and demonstration from Jill at Doozle. Jill has developed her own range of natural skin care products and we all got to take a bath bomb or skin scrub home. Her products are available on-line from www.doozle.biz. In February Richard Summersby gave a fascinating insight into wedding photography (although he has many other strings to his bow!).

In March Jo will be giving us a sugarcraft demonstration and hopefully we'll be joining in. April we are opting for a meal at the Cottage Inn and we have the rest of the year ahead planned. Events include a talk by a local potter, a garden visit and a treasure hunt around the village.

TLC usually meets on the 2nd Tuesday in the month from 7.45pm until 9.30pm in the Oak Room at the Memorial Hall. We aim to keep the programme diverse and the meetings informal. It costs £10 a year to join and £2 per session.

We hope you'll join us.

Christie Morris and Wynne Frankum, Co- chairs



It is the commitment and energy of all our supporters, volunteers, staff and professionals that

enable Macmillan to pursue all avenues to alleviate pain, stress and help support those living with cancer. Thank you for all your support and loyalty. In difficult economic times, people affected by cancer will need our support more than ever before.

In December we had a very successful Christmas Cancer Carol concert at St. Nicolas Church Newbury this raised over £16,000 divided between Macmillan Cancer Support and The Newbury and District Cancer Care Trust.

We continue to help many people in West Berkshire with heating, clothing and living expenses together with their medical and emotional support.

We hope to announce later this year a project on more concentrated help in West Berkshire.

Dates for your diaries - 30th June 2012- Try your hand at

bowling – Supper and a chance to play bowls at The Newbury Indoor Bowls Club. We held this event two years ago and it was most popular and successful. Tickets £12.50 each- further details from Vivien Ward.

All you bridge players – September 19th – Bridge, Afternoon tea and a chance to view the gardens to be held at The Long Gallery Englefield. Details from Patricia Barclay.

Our Annual Christmas Concert Saturday December 1st St. Nicolas Church, Newbury.

Any ideas or fund raising you wish to do for Macmillan please contact me on the number below. If you have a spare hour or two and would be willing to help with our street/shop collections you would be very welcome.

Please continue your support it is very necessary and much appreciated.

Erica Tipton Chairman – MCS Newbury Committee.

Bucklebury History Group

BUCKLEBURY IN 1851

One of the on-going projects of the Bucklebury History Group is to seek information on people and places based on the census taken in the village in 1851 when the population was 1209. Some of the information that is being looked at in this period will be supported from Parish Church and Chapel records, public records for births, marriages and deaths and other categories such as Will & Probate, which all help in piecing together our understanding of the people who lived in our village in that period.

Sometimes research on individuals rewards us with some very interesting detail – take **Benjamin Butler** who was living with his wife at Westrop Green. Benjamin gave his age as 60 at the time of the census (born cir 1791) and his birth place as Frilsham. His wife, **Ann**, was aged 58 (born cir 1793), birth place given as Bucklebury.

The occupation of Benjamin was given as Pensioner, which is long before any state pension was in place and therefore this prompted some more research. This is what was found:

The public records held at Kew record office revealed Benjamin Butler born FRILSOME, Berkshire (this is almost certainly a mis-spelling of Frilsham), served in the Royal Waggon Train and was discharged aged 25. No exact date given but records cover the period 1809-1817 and the records refer to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, Soldiers' Service Documents. So Benjamin was a Chelsea Pensioner.

This again prompted more research. The Royal train controlled the supplies for the army and Military Transportation. The first unit formed was The Royal Wagon

Bucklebury History Group

Come along to our next meeting on

MONDAY 23rd April 2012

**7.30p.m. in The Victory Room,
Bucklebury Village**

Discover more about our village

Tell us about any memories that you have

Help us put names to photographs

Ask us about any queries you have

Refreshments

Small charge to cover cost of hire of the hall

See you there!

Corps, which was established in 1799 until 1802. This changed to the Royal Wagon Train in 1802, and this unit served during the Napoleonic Wars in the Peninsular and at Waterloo. It was disbanded in 1833 as part of peace time economics.

A further document held at Kew Record Office revealed information from a Muster Roll of 1812.

Private Benjamin Butler of the Royal Wagon Train, whose company was supporting the 13th Light Dragoons in Belgium and who were on the move on the 16th July 1812, but were engaged in battle by the 17th & 18th at Waterloo. The Battle of Waterloo, headed by The Duke of Wellington, took place on the 18th June 1812. Benjamin Butler was there and was awarded 'The Waterloo Medal' along with 39,009 other service men. This list is effectively a roll call of Wellington's army and is held at Kew R.O. London.

After Benjamin's discharge, probably about 1816, he is recorded in 1841 in The Slade, Bucklebury aged 50. It is difficult to determine accurately when he left Bucklebury or when he returned, or indeed what prompted him to do so. The 1841 census records, which are rather scant on information, say he was married to Anne.

Anne is **Anne Brunston** daughter of **John Brunston** and **Letitia Ford**. She was baptised at St Mary's Church, Bucklebury, 28th October 1792 and married Benjamin also

at Bucklebury Church the 22nd July 1818, six years after the Battle of Waterloo. They had seven children between 1819 and 1834 all born in Bucklebury.

One of Benjamin's daughters, **Letitia Butler**, born in 1828 married **William Fisher** in 1867 at St Mary's, Bucklebury. He was a Bricklayer and this family continued to live in The Slade, Bucklebury.

No baptism record has been found for Benjamin in the 1790s. Butler baptisms have been found at Frilsham between 1715-1720 and marriages took place there in 1811 and 1820 but no Benjamins.

In her book, Bucklebury's Heritage, Cecilia Millson mentions that the Battle of Waterloo may have been commemorated by the planting of oak trees in The Avenue. This information came from Robert Beddings' diary – "*December 18th 1821. The 1st oake Tree wase Planted of the Row that Goes Down the Common to Wood Gate by Joseph and Thos. Nailor.*"

We don't know if Benjamin was the only person from Bucklebury who was at Waterloo, but most likely he was.

Benjamin died aged 83 and was buried at St Mary's Churchyard on 20 May 1873 – no grave marker survives. Public records support this date as death is registered in the June Qtr of 1873, aged 83 born cir 1790.

Research continues on the people of Bucklebury in 1851 and the history group hopes to publish information on its findings from time to time. If anyone has additional information or amendments to this article then we would like to hear from you, please.

Helen Relf

David Tipton



The Walkers enjoy a meal at The Cottage Inn

Bucklebury Walkers

Forty-one members of our group had an extremely enjoyable meal at The Cottage Inn during January. Both the company and the food were excellent and we thank Gary, Mandy, Tom, Gavin and everyone else involved very much for all their hard work.

We now regularly see over 30 people on our walks so you can imagine a great deal of chatting takes place. The venues and dates for the next few months are listed below and we start at 10.00a.m. – finishing in a pub for coffee and biscuits or maybe a pint and lunch.

I am sure we all agree with the following:-

WALKING according to A.C. Grayling, Professor of Philosophy.

According to the Arabs, a human soul can travel only as fast as a camel can trot. But even a camel trot is too fast for real appreciation of our world's layout. Only a human walking pace measures it correctly. To walk the country lanes and hills is to fall into step with the rest of nature; that is the pace of the cattle and the crops, the breeze, the shifting clouds. You do not see these in their proper time frame when you dash by them in a car or train; still less if you see them miniaturised from 30,000 feet.

Walking, therefore, is good for one's sense of proportion, which is good for one's mental health. It has been observed that a five-mile walk does more for one's well-being than all the psychotherapy in the world. But as everyone knows, that is because walking is equally good for physical health.

Thurs 5th Apr. 10.00a.m. **The Bladebone, Chapel Row.**

Coffee in pub afterwards

Thurs 3rd May 10.00a.m. **The Cottage Inn, Broad Lane.**

Coffee in pub afterwards

Thurs 7th Jun. 10.00a.m. **Car Park midway to Chapel Row on right hand side, walk to Midgham Park.**

Coffee at Cottage Inn afterwards

Thurs 5th Jul. 10.00a.m. **The Cottage Inn, Broad Lane.**

Coffee in pub afterwards

Thurs 2nd Aug. 10.00a.m. **The Cottage Inn, Broad Lane.**

Coffee in pub afterwards

Thurs 6th Sep. 10.00am **Victory Room Car Park., Bucklebury Village.**

Coffee at Cottage Inn afterwards

Thurs 4th Oct. 10.00a.m. **The Cottage Inn, Broad Lane.**

Coffee in pub afterwards

Helen Relf

Jubilee Weekend Walk

Saturday 2nd June 2012,

Join us for a walk to **The Coronation Oak** on Bucklebury Common, where 1,200 people attended a Divine Service to celebrate the Coronation of Edward VII in 1902.

Meet at 2.30 p.m. at The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury. Parking available in the pub car park and bring a picnic tea to enjoy in the pub field afterwards.

The walk will last about 1-1½ hours but a shorter distance can be available if necessary.

For further information please contact Helen Relf.

Helen Relf

“Bucklebury’s Big Lunch” for Diamond Jubilee



Sunday 3rd June 2012

Bucklebury Farm Park

by kind permission of Rupert Hartley Russell

Bucklebury will be joining towns and villages across the nation with a Big Lunch party to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee on Sunday 3rd June 2012. The ticket only event will be open to all parishioners and their guests. There will be a “Fabulous 50’s” theme to evoke the days of the Queen’s coronation in 1952 with live music from cool jazz to folk rock, jive dancing, hog roast, beer tent, pimm’s and vintage-style afternoon teas. Entertainment for the children will include 1950’s fancy dress, face-painting, Punch and Judy, traditional sweet stall and a 50’s car display. The popular tractor and trailer rides from the village to the farm that operated on the day of last year’s Royal Wedding will be another of the day’s highlights. Entry to the event will be by ticket only priced at £7.50 and free to those 18 and under. To commemorate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, the committee has commissioned a souvenir pencil tin that will be presented to children in the village aged 16 and under.

See pages 6-7 for more information together with ticket application forms

- The organising team is looking for volunteers to give 1-2 hours of their time on the day to help run aspects of the event. If you would be interested in helping out, please email or phone Helen McGowan

Helen McGowan



Bucklebury Community Events Committee

Berkshire Country Fayre

Berkshire Country Fayre is the major inter-club competitions day for Berkshire YFC. Friendly rivalry and fierce competition between the clubs and their members showcase the amazing talents that our YFC members possess as well as the skills that the YFC movement encourages and develops. Young and old, the whole club gets involved with the “show effort”, encouraging club and self-pride, confidence and belonging, as individuals and clubs compete for over 20 cups and trophies and fight it out for the overall points at show trophy!

Organised each year by a different club and their own heroic group of volunteers, the “Show” has YFC competitions and exhibits at the centre of its endeavours. From flower arranging and art and design to cookery, woodwork and metalwork. On stage “artists”, X-Factor, Glee and fancy dress legends to tractor driving, fence erecting and tug of war; the Country Fayre has it all.

The Country Fayre has all the usual aspects of a County Show with main ring attractions, craft and food marquees, trade stands, animal corner, vintage machinery, club stands, dog show and plenty for people to see and do. All in all a great day out for all the family; the Country Fayre has it all.

TICKET PRICES

Family tickets £15, Adult £6, Children 5-12 /Concessions £3, Under 5’s free

Booking forms for Trade/Craft and Food stands still available

For further information and booking details please call.

Mrs Lydia Bendall

"A FUN DAY OUT FOR
ALL WALKS OF LIFE"

**Berkshire
Country Fayre**

**Sunday 27th May
2012**
ENGLEFIELD, A340, N^r THEALE/
PANGBOURNE

9.00am until 5.00pm
FREE Car Parking

Craft & Food Marquees	Trade Stands	Flyball
Countryside Area	Birds of Prey	Fun Fair
Children’s Entertainment	Dog Show	Ferret racing
Vintage Machinery	4X4 Vehicles	Inflatable fun
Schools Area	Polo Demo	Classic Cars

AS WELL AS BERKSHIRE YOUNG FARMERS’ CLUBS COMPETITIONS DAY

For further information and booking details please call
Mrs Lydia Bendall 07733 325110
berkshirecountryfayre2012@gmail.com

Bradfield and District Young Farmers Club

Are you aged between 10 and 26? Are you looking for something to do on a Wednesday evening? Then Bradfield YFC may well be just the thing!!

You don't have to be a farmer to be a Young Farmer but if you enjoy making new friends, taking part in sports and other outdoor activities, crafts, talks, travel, organising events, conservation, and heaps of other activities come and have a go! There are even opportunities to travel and work abroad!

This past month we have had a cookery evening, a lambing visit, a film evening and a sports night. What we do is decided by the members with some guidance from club leaders who are all CRB checked and First Aid trained.

We are also now busy getting ready for the Berkshire Country Fayre which is on Sunday 27th May at Englefield. We have young farmers' competitions there as well as a fun fair, a craft and food tent, terrier racing, birds of prey, a dog show and more! It is a really fun day out for all the family.

So if you have some energy to spare, please contact Kate Munro-Ashman or Stephen Waters and they can tell you what we are up to!

Kate Munro-Ashman
Stephen Waters

Halls

The Victory Room Bucklebury Village



LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS

After a recent wave of petty crime in the village, new sensor lights have been fitted on the Victory Room. The lights automatically operate when cars/people enter the car park after dark. A sensor light has also been added in the front porch, which makes it easier to see when opening and closing the front door after an evening meeting or event. This improvement will be helpful to anyone using the Victory Room and may also deter further criminal damage in the village.

RECENT EVENTS IN THE VICTORY ROOM

Christmas Dance – 10th December 2011

A lively crowd filled the Victory Room just before Christmas, and enjoyed a tasty dinner, fabulous puddings

and the toe-tapping live music of Platinum. It was a great way to kick off the holiday season, with the Victory Room beautifully decorated with ivy, holly and a massive bunch of mistletoe!

Highland Ceilidh - 11th February 2012

This Scottish dance event was once again very popular - all tickets sold despite very cold weather - and as usual several requests for the same next year.



The Highland Ceilidh

BUCKLEBURY BEERFEST-

Saturday, 6th October 2012

Planning is already underway for the fourth annual Bucklebury Beerfest. Once again it will be a **fun**, free event for the whole family, with more varieties of beer, different bands providing great live music in the large marquee, a fun mix of games and activities for children, all sorts of trade stands and delicious food throughout the day. More details will follow in the next edition of *The Oaks*, and we're keen to hear your ideas about how to make the event even better.

Contact any of the Victory Room committee members below if you have ideas to share, if you'd like to have a trade stand, sponsor a barrel of beer, or simply help out for an hour on the day.

We need lots of support to make this wonderful community event happen, and it's great to take part. Here are some ideas to consider:

1. **Be a barrel sponsor for only £50** - Your name will be:
Prominently displayed on the sponsor's wall behind the bar
Listed in the Bucklebury Beerfest programme, free to all attendees
2. **Donate a raffle prize:** Do you have an item that could be included in the raffle?
3. **Volunteer to help on the day:** Come along to help for an hour with one of the many activities planned. We couldn't run this fun event without the extra hands, so let us know when you can join in.

Contact any of the Victory Room trustees:

Anne Ryder

Tim Culley

June Bearman

Julie Brims

Lucy Unamba

Alastair McOran-Campbell

Jacquine Theunissen

Lindy Clarke

What's the Beerfest in aid of?

The Victory Room is a registered charity and is looked after by a committee of volunteer trustees. Hiring out the hall for private parties, classes, meetings, Scouts and Cubs, and the local football teams helps bring money in to help maintain the building. However, the hiring fees don't cover all of the running costs, so events like the Beerfest are organised by the committee to raise funds, ensuring the hall is maintained for everyone's benefit.

We are also working toward an extension to the Victory Room, which will provide new toilets and additional storage space.

Victory Room dates – see back page

HIRE THE VICTORY ROOM FOR YOUR PARTY OR EVENT

The Victory Room is the perfect venue for up to 80 people. The hall has everything you'll need – tables, chairs, crockery, cutlery and table cloths – plus a stage! All of the furniture is also available for local hire.

The Victory Room is located right next to the village recreation ground with plenty of room in the car park. For information on the availability of the hall and hiring charges, please contact Lindy Clarke by phone or by email

Sports

Tennis Club

What's been happening over the winter?

- The Club has been involved with the N & D Winter League. With only a few matches to go we have managed some very good performances in the top two Divisions where both our A team and B team hold second place in their respective leagues. A team having 6 wins to 2 losses and the B team having 7 wins to two losses. Our C team in

Division 3 has struggled a bit but has adopted a player strategy that has brought a number of new enthusiasts into competitive tennis.

- Mix-ins have been quiet over the winter months, where some of the older regulars have felt that the weather was too serious an element to ignore in preference to the warmth of the home fire! Younger members can't get to the mid morning sessions on normal working days!
- The Club Supper was a great success with the Bladebone Inn excelling in providing the good food and Members the fun!

NEWBURY & DISTRICT SUMMER LEAGUES

Once again we have entered several teams into this local competition. Two Men's Teams, two Ladies' teams, two Mixed teams. Although competitive, there is room to accommodate most players who would like the challenge of playing against other local clubs yet still end the match on friendly terms with the opposition!

JUNIOR COACHING

From the beginning of the summer term we will be holding our regular coaching sessions for Teenagers, Under 12's and Under 10's. The sessions are offered by our qualified coach Liam Phillips and offer 10 sessions of one hour each for the 3 separate age groups.

Under 10's on Monday afternoons after school from 3.30p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (We have a restriction on the lower age of approximately 8)

Under 12's on Monday afternoon 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Teens on Saturday mornings between 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

The complete programme of 10 sessions costs £40 to members and £45 to non-members. Places for this need to be booked and paid for in advance. Anyone interested should contact Emma Spriggs or the undersigned.

MEMBERSHIP OR VISITING

If you would like to join the Club, or if any of the above is of interest to you or you would just like to know more, please visit our website www.buckleburytennisclub.com

Mike James



Bucklebury Cricket Club

Come and play Cricket for Bucklebury CC.

Whether you are a seasoned player, someone who is new to the game, or someone who played long ago then you will enjoy joining the Bucklebury Badgers. Play regularly or just the occasional game.

After many years playing at Brockhurst School (by kind permission of David Fleming), we will be playing the 2012 season on the refurbished pitch at Yattendon. Here we now have a 10 track grass wicket that has been prepared by the groundsman from Bradfield.

There are 19 matches between April and September this summer, all on Sunday afternoons (normally starting at 2pm). All are 'friendlies' against other local village teams (although some matches are more keenly fought 'friendlies' than others).

Our first game is away at Englefield (in the deer park) on 22nd April.

Before the season starts, come and join us for nets, even if you haven't played for a while. Please see our website for dates and times.

For more information contact:

Piers Allison Team Captain

Google "Bucklebury CC"

Follows us on Twitter @BuckleburyCC

Bucklebury Badminton Club



The club has had a successful season, in particular because club nights have been busy due to the many new members but also matches have been won by all teams.

In January we held the level doubles tournament for the district which was well attended. Bucklebury was represented in both the ladies' and the men's doubles. Indeed, our own David Haines and Colin Shurey made it through to the final and only just lost in a very hard fought match.

We are looking forward to participating in the Jubilee Event at the Cottage Inn on 4th June and we are also holding our own social occasions during the summer including an inter club tournament, a coaching evening and a night out on the town!

Please do join us for a knock around or for more serious games. We play on Tuesday evenings at Elstree School in Woolhampton. Just turn up, or phone for more information.

VENUE: Elstree School, Woolhampton, RG7 5TD

DAY: Tuesday 8 to 10 p.m. (not in July or August)

Margaret Neville

<http://buckleburybadminton.intheteam.com>

Bucklebury Wolves F.C. gets 75 Players!

The fifth year of Bucklebury Wolves Football Club started February 2012 which turned out to be a very busy month despite some challenging weather.

Buck Wolves now cater for some 75 players aged 4 to 11 thanks to the new Whites (4 & 5 yr olds) and Grays (10 yr olds – see photo) teams, each with three fabulous volunteer Coaches. The Wolves (8 & 9 yr olds) and Cubs (6 & 7 yr olds) teams still make up the bulk of the players with 28 and 26 players registered respectively. The Coaching Team now stands at 13 regulars with 4 occasional coaches which is a marvellous increase in adult help with the Club.

The Wolves and Grays teams started the season at the 3G pitches at Prospect Park which led to some great fast paced games. The Grays registered a terrific 9-0 score line in their first away match at the end of February and the Wolves players are all competing in a highly competitive but fun internal league formed from their 4 teams.

The Club are very grateful for the on-going support of Bucklebury Parish Council and the Victory Room Management Committee for the use of their facilities. Each week the parents/carers tell us how much the children enjoy the Club. We think that players benefit from a sense of belonging and the Soccer Stars reward system acknowledges their other skills like listening well; sportsmanship; improvement and teamwork which are considered as important as scoring goals and winning.

New able players, (boys and girls) are always welcome. Please visit our new website and use the CONTACT US link:-

Jonathan Poole Coach & Manager

www.buckleburywolves.co.uk

Bucklebury Wolves Grays Team

Bucklebury Walk

CHAPEL ROW – MIDGHAM GREEN – KIFF GREEN

From the Bladebone Inn turn left along the path and then the road for a short way to the first ByWay on the left, just by the 'beware of deer' sign. Continue to the next sign and bear left then left again at the next sign onto a wider path. Turn right into the woods as you approach a house (notice says 'extreme caution – children').

Follow the left hand path and turn left again at a wider path and then straight on between the houses – bit muddy – into Carbin's Wood, (beware of the slippery bridge when wet) and follow the footpath straight up the hill keeping the fence on your left. Keep heading south (now between two fences) and continue straight on over bridge (this is part of the River Bourne) up the slope and out of the wood.

Through the swing gate to the gate at the far end of this path to exit on to the road. Turn left and follow the road towards Midgham and Woolhampton, turning right at the signpost. Ignore the first footpath sign (**but if you want a shorter walk, turn left here and join the walk later at **). Continue down the hill to Midgham Green and turn left by the post box, following the path past some houses and into Channel Wood.

At the Y junction – bear left and at the cross paths turn left. Then keep right and go up the left hand edge of the field following the fp signs to the top of the hill. Turn right here towards Kiff Green. (** here the shorter path will rejoin from the left).

At the T junction turn left (notice Douai Abbey ahead and to the right and the back of the Black Barn on the left) and exit the path at the pinch stile (Fat Man's Misery!) to the road. Turn right onto the road (opposite Hatch Lane or you can head back to the start here via Hatch Lane if convenient) and take the first footpath on the left, following the ridge between the fields and exit via a stile at the farm. Turn left and then turn right and head diagonally across the field (behind Paradise Lane) to the far corner. Over the stile and turn right after crossing a bridge. Turn left at the top of the hill and across the green (this used to be called The Cricket Pitch, according to a past resident of the parish and cricket was played there for over 100 years) back to The Bladebone and refreshments (if you have timed your walk correctly!).

Helen Relf

West Berkshire Countryside Society

.... and then there was ONE!

THE BIRTH OF THE 'WEST BERKSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE SOCIETY'

WHAT AN EVENING!! General Meetings, Annual or Emergency, do not often attract crowds – but this one did!

On Thursday 19th January 2012, in The Oak Room of Upper Bucklebury Memorial Hall, history was made. The Friends of the Pang, Kennet and Lambourn Valleys, The Bucklebury Heathland Conservation Group and The Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers, by the unanimous vote of a (probably) overcrowded gathering of their members, became the **West Berkshire Countryside Society!**

As Dick Greenaway put it in his introduction, "United we stand, divided we fall". The new unified group will make us more effective at looking after our countryside and will make it easier for outside bodies – such as West Berkshire Council, The AONB and Natural England – to identify and work with us.

The work we have done in the past will continue. Tim Culley's team will still look after Bucklebury Common, Frank Hayward's teams will coppice, path clear, pull invasive plants, recover water meadows etc. etc. John Dellow's volunteers will erect and monitor owl boxes. Conducted walks and talks will still be organised. In fact we will do all we did before but - we hope - better. Particularly if your readers would care to join us – either as members or as volunteers on tasks. They would be especially welcome to join in our walks.

Have a look at our website for more information about what we do. You will also find our programme of tasks and events and an **Application Form!**

WEST BERKSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE SOCIETY

The new group now combines the aims and objectives of the Pang and Kennet Valleys Countryside Projects, the Bucklebury Heathlands Conservation Group, and the Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers. It has been set up to represent all of the people who care about the countryside throughout West Berkshire. The events below give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. The tasks usually begin around 10am and finish by 4pm but you are very welcome to come for as much time as you wish to give during these hours. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the full day. Hot drinks are usually provided, as are the necessary tools.

For further information please see the Website - www.westberks countryside.org.uk.

PROGRAMME

Tues 3rd Apr 10am - Sheepdrove Organic Farm near Lambourn - SU358818.

Do not use SatNav for this site! Car park at Eco Conference Centre. Help Neil Rowntree with tasks on this famous organic farm

Tues 10th Apr - 10am - Paices Wood. Aldermaston. Coppicing willows, ride widening. Use top car park SU585635

Come and help maintain this very popular reserve and prepare it for Spring. Enter through the new entrance from the A340 and park in the top car park

Thurs 12th Apr - 7.30pm - St Nicholas Church Hall, Newbury

Come and listen to a nationally acclaimed expert talk about 'Spring Flowers in our Woodlands'. Free entry to members, £2 to non members.

Tues 17th Apr - 10am - Garden Cottage, Streatley Water Meadow management. Car park SU593812

Come and join us as we continue our important work recovering these Thames water meadows near Streatley. Meet at the Recreation Ground car park, top of Cleeve Court Road.

Tues 24th Apr - 10am - Ashampstead Common. Veteran tree management - Car park SU5870 7505

Come and help clear a new 'halo' around a veteran beech and take lop-and-top from an ancient pond site (now dry!)

Sun 29th Apr - 11am - "Walk in an Ancient Landscape" Car park at Childs Court Farm SU575751

Join Dick Greenaway on a six mile walk to look at the landscape, wildlife and history of Ashampstead parish. There are three modest hills on this walk and no pubs! Bring a packed lunch. Dogs not recommended.

Tue 1st May - 10am - Rushall Manor Farm - Car park at the Black Barn SU584723

Come and help layer hazel to encourage new growth. This is a joint task with CROW.

Sun 6th May - 10.30am - 'A Stroll around Ashampstead Common' - Car park at Childs Court Farm SU575751

Join Dick Greenaway for a shortish stroll – about two miles – to look at the veteran trees, wildlife and archaeology of this ancient deer park. Dogs welcome. Back in time for lunch!

This is a joint walk with Abingdon Natural History Society.

Tue 8th May - 10am - Garden Cottage, Streatley - Water Meadow management. Car park SU593812

Come and join us as we continue our important work recovering these Thames water meadows near Streatley. Meet at the Recreation Ground car park, top of Cleeve Court Road.

Wed 9th May - 7.30pm West Berkshire Countryside Society First Annual General Meeting. - Bucklebury Memorial Hall, Oak Room

This is the first AGM of the new society where the membership will be asked to approve the new constitution and officers. Please make every effort to attend as we need your support.

Paul Sedgwick, Managing Director of Yattendon Estate will give a short presentation on 'The Challenges of Running a Large Country Estate.'

Tue 15th May - 10am - Ashampstead Common. - Veteran tree halo maintenance Car park SU5870 7505

Help us maintain the open areas on this historic Common.

Tue 22nd May - 10am - Mapleash Copse, Snelsmore Common – Workshop - Car parking SU4624 7182 in Bussock Hill House stable yard.

A Workshop led by Charles Flower of Flowers Farms to look at the management of wild flowers in woodland. Booking via our website essential places very limited. Bring a packed lunch.

Tue 5th June - 10am - Kings Copse - Pulling Himalayan balsam and bracken bashing

Park outside the cottage – not the house. SU579706

Please come and help control invasive balsam and encroaching bracken which threaten to swamp the woodland flowers.

Tue 12th June - 10am - Kings Copse - Pulling Himalayan balsam and bracken bashing. Park outside the cottage – not the house. SU579706

Please come and help control invasive balsam and encroaching bracken which threaten to swamp the woodland flowers.

Tue 19th June - 10am - Garden Cottage, Streatley - Water Meadow management. Car park SU593812

Come and join us as we continue our important work recovering these Thames water meadows near Streatley. Meet at the Recreation Ground car park, top of Cleeve Court Road.

Sun 24th June - 11am - 'Saxons to Swimming Pools' - Car park at Hampstead Norreys Village Hall SU527762

Join Dick Greenaway for a six mile walk to look at the landscape, wild life and history of Hampstead Norreys parish.

There are two steep hills on this walk. Bring a packed lunch. Well behaved dogs welcome but will be on leads for some parts. A short cut allows walkers to miss one hill and reduces the walk length. They will not be guided to do this but the route is clearly defined and a map will be provided.

Tue 26th June - 10am - Leyfields Meadow. - Bracken control. Car park at The Cottage, Ashampstead Common SU577752

Come and help us prevent bracken taking over this important piece of flower rich grassland. There is a ¾ mile walk to and from this site.

**Thurs 5th July 8pm Bucklebury Common - Evening Walk.
Meet at Angels Corner SU550689**

Join Tim Culley for a short walk to see the glow-worms and see and hear the nightjars. Boots recommended

Sun 15th July 1pm 'Ancient and Modern' - Park in Yattendon Village and meet in the Square. SU552745

Join Dick Greenaway for a short walk around Yattendon Village and the surrounding fields with a visit to the state-of-the-art Yattendon Estate Dairy Unit during milking time by courtesy of Yattendon Farms. No dogs on this walk please.

**Thurs 19th July 8pm Bucklebury Common - Evening Walk.
Meet at Angels Corner: SU550689**

Join Tim Culley for a short walk to see the glow-worms and see and hear the nightjars. Boots recommended

Colin Layton

www.westberkscountyside.org.uk

Fungi at the Hockett

People sometimes ask "Is this toadstool or mushroom edible or poisonous?" Most often the answer is "Neither". Most toadstools are not poisonous but not worth eating either, so separation into edible and poisonous species does not reflect the true situation. Some languages have just one word for mushroom and toadstool, for example *champignon* in French and *pilze* in German.

On 17th November there was a work party on the Hockett with the Pang Valley Volunteers. While we were there I collected seven species of fungus without too much effort. To my surprise two of them were edible and three were poisonous, only two being in neither category.

Of the edible ones the parasol mushroom was most conspicuous with its big scaly cap and long stem with a double ring. The other was one of the puffballs which can be quite good to eat when young. When older they produce a whole lot of spores like yellow dust through a hole in the top.

Nobody would mistake a fly agaric for anything else. They are the toadstool of fairy stories and have bright red caps with detachable white scales. They are poisonous, but sub-lethal doses can lead to hallucinations.

Another one, called poison pie, could be mistaken for a field mushroom but has a greasy cap and no ring.

The snowy white *Clitocybe dealbata* is deadly poison and dangerous because it could be mistaken for the so called fairy ring champignon which is edible. It is best to avoid eating any small white toadstool in grass.

One of the joys of the Hockett is that it has never had chemicals put on it and had not been ploughed in living memory. There is a large variety of fungi there and the seven species gathered in just one morning were only a few of those actually present.

Roger Frankum

Bucklebury Heathland Conservation Group

The heather on the lower common should be the best ever if we have some rain. A lot of work has been put in since last summer by volunteers and contractors. Our own volunteers, 23 M.S.C. students from Reading University, and Frank's Tuesday group (can we book you for one day next year please. Cake promised) have done a great job cutting silver birch and scots pine and burning up.

Contractors have weed wiped six acres to kill 6ft silver birch without any damage to the heather, and a contractor has "swiped" 5 acres to cut heather and scots pine saplings that were growing away from us.

A group from Surrey are hoping to survey reptiles on the Lower Common.

Woodlark are now plentiful, and have been singing on the Lower Common for months, the first woodlark has now appeared on the cleared area on the Upper Common, redpoll have been seen several times, and a keen bird watcher showed me the first crossbill I have seen on the Common.

Nightjars will hopefully reappear May-June.

There are two nightjar walks in July, I hope the nightjars turn up, why don't you?

Tim Culley

Contributions

Material to appear in *The Oaks* should be sent neatly typed for scanning or as a word-processor document (eg MS Word), attached to an e-mail, to "lindy.clarke@live.co.uk". Don't worry about layout as it will be re-formatted to the house-style. Please supply any pictures or artwork as separate files, as they are not usually recoverable from word processor files, and **don't forget to include captions for the pictures.**

All contributions appertaining to the Parish are very welcome, but the Parish Council reserves the right to adapt or omit submissions.

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month preceding publication.

Wynne Frankum

Parish Diary Dates

APRIL

3 rd	St Martins Club	Mystery Tour		
5 th	Bucklebury Walkers		10.00am	Bladebone, Chapel Row
23 rd	Macmillan Cancer Support	Pam Ayres at the Vineyard	12.30pm	The Vineyard, Stockcross
23 rd	History group	Open meeting	7.30pm	The Victory Room
27 th	Bucklebury Toddlers	Puppet Show	10.00am	Memorial Hall

MAY

1 st	St Martins Club	Trip to Stratford on Avon		
2 nd	Friendship circle	Annual Coffee morning	10.00am	Briff Farm, Briff lane
3 rd	Bucklebury Walkers		10.00am	Cottage Inn, Broad lane
6 th	Telephone Kiosk group	Book exchange launch	4.00pm	Bladebone, Chapel Row
18 th	Parish Council	Annual Parish Assembly	8.00pm	Memorial Hall
19 th	Horticultural Society	Bowood trip	9.30am	Memorial Hall

JUNE

2 nd	Bucklebury Walkers	Jubilee Weekend Walk	2.30pm	Cottage Inn, Broad lane
3 rd	Village Events Committee	Diamond Jubilee Big Lunch	TBA	Bucklebury Farm Park
4 th	Badminton Club	Jubilee Event	TBA	Cottage Inn
7 th	Bucklebury Walkers		10.00am	Midway carpark, Common
12 th	St Martin's Club	American Museum, Bath		
30 th	Macmillan Cancer Support	Bowls and supper		Newbury Indoor Bowls Club

JULY

3 rd	St Martins Club	Hever Castle, Kent		
5 th	Bucklebury Walkers		10.00am	Cottage Inn
7 th	Horticultural Society	Wisley trip	9.30am	Memorial Hall
14 th	Horticultural Society	Summer Show	TBA	Memorial Hall

AUGUST

2 nd	Bucklebury Walkers		10.00am	Cottage Inn
7 th	St Martins Club	Weston Super Mare		
25 th	Chapel Row committee	Chapel Row Fayre		Chapel Row Green

SEPTEMBER

4 th	St Martins Club	Carr-Taylor Vineyard, Sussex		
6 th	Bucklebury Walkers		10.00am	Victory Room
8 th	Horticultural Society	Autumn Show	TBA	Memorial Hall
19 th	Macmillan Cancer Support	Bridge and tea		The Long Gallery, Englefield

VACANCY

Sadly, after a number of years as a most excellent typographer, Malcolm Storey is unable to continue on the editorial team due to other commitments. B.P.C. would like to thank him for the enthusiasm and expertise he has brought to the post.

Consequently we have a vacancy for a volunteer to handle the page-makeup of *The Oaks* from the next (September) issue. It takes about one day (split over two or three) three times per year.

If you have experience of Desktop Publishing or would like to learn, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Software and/or computer could be provided if required.

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